

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-6, 8-24, 26-32, 34-37, 42-44, 46-54 and 56-61 are amended herein, and claims 7, 25, 33, 38-41, 45 and 55 are cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-24, 26-32, 34-37, 42-44, 46-54 and 56-61 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are overcome below.

OBJECTION OF CLAIMS:

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 20 and 29 due to informalities.

The Examiner points out that claims 20 and 29 recite "saidmethod". Claim 29 is amended herein (claim 20 does not have such recitation). Applicants have also amended claim 21 to correct the same informality.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-15, 18-20, 24-27, 32-36, 44-47, 50, 51, 54-57, 60 and 61 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The subject matter recited in claims 7, 25, 33, 45 and 55 is incorporated into claims 1, 21, 29, 42 and 52, respectively. Claims 7, 25, 33, 45 and 55 are cancelled herein.

Claims 5, 6, 18-20, 24, 26, 27, 32, 34-36, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 54-57, 60 and 61 are also amended to improve forms thereof.

Thus, claims 5, 6, 8-15, 18-20, 24, 26, 27, 32, 34-36, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51, 54, 56, 57, 60 and 61 should be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-4, 16, 17, 21-23, 28-31, 37, 42, 43, 48, 49, 52, 53, 58 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over what Examiner refers to Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) and U.S. Patent No. 6,687,021 (Kerz).

The Examiner relies on the combination of Kerz and what the Examiner refers to AAPA to reject claims 1-4, 16, 17, 21-23, 28-31, 37, 42, 43, 48, 49, 52, 53, 58 and 59.

The Examiner relies on the discussion on pages 1-5 of the present application as teaching features recited in the claims. However, the discussion on pages 1-5 of the present application discusses needs or problems of various techniques. The Applicants respectfully point out that the discussion on pages 1-5 of the present application relates to providing a solution to problems presented in the various techniques, however, the advantages and features of the present invention is not limited to the discussion on pages 1-5.

As stated above, each of the independent claims 1, 21, 29, 42 and 52 are amended to incorporate features recited in allowable claims 7, 25, 33, 45 and 55, respectively. Thus, independent claims 1, 21, 29, 42 and 52 as amended are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference and should be allowed.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

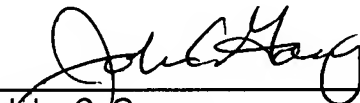
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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10-20-05

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